

Message Text

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LIVE OAK MESSAGE (UNCLASSIFIED) SHLO 164

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SUBJECT: EXERCISE PASSING THROUGH ROMAN THIRTY FOUR

MOST DECIDUOUS SHRUBS, SUCH AS FORSYTHIA, DEUTZIA,
KERRIA, LILAC, ROSE-OF-SHARON, MOCKORANGE AND WEIGELA
USUALLY BENEFIT FROM ANNUAL PRUNING AFTER YOU HAVE HAD
THEM TWO OR THREE YEARS.

THE BEST TIME TO DO MOST OF THE PRUNING IS LATE WINTER
OR EARLY SPRING. BUT THEY SHOULD NOT BE PRUNED WITHOUT
A DEFINITE REASON. NEEDLESS AND CARELESS PRUNING CAN
DECREASE THEIR BEAUTY AND VALUE WHILE SENSIBLE
PRUNING CAN ENHANCE THEIR BEAUTY.

THE NATURAL FORM OF THESE FLOWERING SHURBS IS THE MOST
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BEAUTIFUL FORM AND IT IS BEST MAINTAINED BY
FOLLOWING A RENEWAL SYSTEM OF PRUNING, WHICH IS MORE
EASILY AND ADEQUATELY PERFORMED DURING THE WINTER,
WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE THE FRAMEWORK AND MAKE
A BETTER DECISION WHAT TO REMOVE.

THE RENEWAL SYSTEM INVOLVES REMOVAL OF A NUMBER OF THE

OLDEST CANES AT THE GROUND LEVEL. THIS PERMITS
NEW CANES TO DEVELOP FROM THE BASE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE.

SOME KINDS--SUCH AS FORSYTHIA, MOCKORANGE AND
DEUTZIA--OFTEN DEVELOP CANES 6 TO 8 FEET TALL IN ONE
SEASON. THE BARK ON THESE NEW CANES IS SMOOTH AND
BRIGHT IN COLOR. AS THEY AGE, THE BARK BECOMES
DULLER.

WITH MORE AND MORE GROWTH AT THE TOP, A DENSE TOP IS
CREATED THAT SHUTS OUT LIGHT AND AIR FROM THE BASE.
CONSEQUENTLY, NEW GROWTH THAT STARTS FROM THE BASE
IS LIKELY TO DIE. THIS CAUSES THE SHRUB TO BECOME
LEGGY.

FIRST REMOVE ALL DEAD OR DAMAGED CANES. CUT THEM
OFF AT THE GROUND LEVEL. THEN REMOVE ABOUT ONE-FOURTH
OF THE OLDEST CANES. THIS WAY, YOU GET A COMPLETE
RENEWAL IN FOUR YEARS. THE FOLLOWING PLANTS
CAN BE PRUNED IN THIS MANNER: LILLAC, DEUTZIA, KERRIA,
BLOOMING IN TWO OR THREE YEARS.

IF TWO MANY NEW CANES DEVELOP, SOME SHOULD BE REMOVED.
USUALLY THE STRONGEST SHOULD BE LEFT. CUTTING SOME OF
THESE BACK ONE-THIRD WILL ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENTS
OF SIDE BRANCHES.

PRIVET IS OFTEN USED FOR A CLIPPED HEDGE. THE PLANTS
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GROW RAPIDLY AND TOLERATE PARTIAL SHADE. SOMETIMES,
AFTER A FEW YEARS, THE PRIVET BECOMES LEGGY, WITH
FEW BRANCHES NEAR THE GROUND. SUCH A HEDGE CAN BE
REJUVENATED BY CUTTING IT DOWN TO ABOUT SIX
INCHES BEFORE NEW GROWTH STARTS, IS THE TIME
TO DO IT. FERTILIZE THE HEDGE AT THE SAME TIME.

LIGUSTRUM JAPONICUM, THE EVERGREEN PRIVET, WILL
STAND HEAVY PRUNING TO ACHIEVE ALMOST ANY DESIRED
SHAPE AND SIZE. IN CASE OF WINTER INJURY, WHICH
FREQUENTLY OCCURS, OR SCRAGGLY GROWTH, THIS PLANT
CAN BE CUT BACK SEVERELY IN EARLY SPRING.

AZALEAS THAT ARE TOO TALL AND LEGGY CAN BE
REJUVENATED. SELECT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE STEMS, SPACED
THROUGHOUT THE PLANT, AND CUT THEM BACK TO ABOUT
EIGHT INCHES FROM THE GROUND.

DORMANT BUDS BELOW THE CUTS WILL START GROWTH AND
NEW STEMS WILL SOON FILL THE GAP. THE FOLLOWING SPRING
DO ANOTHER THIRD, AND FINISH THE JOB THE NEXT YEAR.

SHEARING AZALEAS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY BLOOM IS NOT A
GOOD IDEA. IT MAKES THE TOP TOO DENSE, SHUTTING
OFF LIGHT FROM THE INTERIOR.EX EX EX VANCE

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